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AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS STUDYING SECRET REPORT

Russia Bidding for U.S. Friendship?

CPYRGHT

Chicago Tribune Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22 — Foreign policy planners of the United States are studying a top-level intelligence report depicting Russia as an increasingly amiable power open to peaceful settlement of international disputes.

This "Russia is mellowing" theory went into temporary eclipse after the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962. Evidence that it is again thriving in the highest circles of the Johnson administration has been obtained by Chicago Tribune Press Service.

A 47-page report dated Feb. 19, 1964, and marked "secret" has been circulated in the White House, National Security Council, State and Defense departments.

Based on reports gathered by the worldwide espionage network of the Central Intelligence Agency, it was prepared and endorsed by the Board of National Estimates of that agency.

It argues that the Soviet Union, under the impact of economic stress and difficulties with Red China, is losing its hostility to the West and is seeking a new kind of relationship with the United States.

This comforting theme brushes off the bellicose threats of Nikita Khrushchev as a kind of international campaign oratory.

Khrushchev, the report asserts, has made a decision to negotiate better relations with the United States. The source of this information is not disclosed.

Despite the establishment of a Soviet outpost in Cuba and Communist subversion and terrorism in Africa, the Far East and South America, the report expresses the belief that Russia will diminish "the vigor of its revolutionary effort outside

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the Communist world" in the future.

A dark picture was drawn of the situation in Viet Nam where "there remains serious doubt that victory can be won" and a "prolonged stalemate" is the most to be anticipated. The report hints that "some kind of negotiated settlement based upon neutralization" is the only solution.

If the Communist world has its troubles, they are matched by similar developments in the West, the paper asserts. Europe regards the United States as overdramatizing its problems in Latin America and the Far East. American influence in Europe is waning.

The report has a covering memorandum signed by Sherman Kent, chairman of the Board of National Estimates of

the CIA. He noted that the contents, entitled "Trends in the World Situation" had been twice revised and supplemented after board discussion. The report had received "general board approval, though no attempt has been made to reach complete agreement on every point of it." It was being "circulated for information" on a classified basis.

The Board of Estimates of the CIA submits its findings to the United States Intelligence Board which operates within the National Security Council structure. The council is headed by President Johnson, with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara as its leading members.

The conduct of the cold war is necessarily affected by the "estimates" of enemy intentions prepared by the board after examination of reports

from a multitude of CIA agents abroad. Kent, the chairman, is former head of the State Department's office of research and intelligence and chief of the Europe-Africa division of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II.

The theme that Russia is evolving into a potential ally, having abandoned its goal of world conquest, was advanced more than two years ago in a secret strategy guide compiled by Walt W. Rostow, chairman of the State Department's policy planning board.

Disclosure of the Rostow report by Chicago Tribune Press Service in June 1962, caused a storm in Congress and the questioning of Rostow in secret session. He invoked "executive privilege" to avoid comment on a classified document. The State Department declared that

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